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By ECF

June 12, 2025

Hon. Claire C. Cecchi
United States District Judge
Martin Luther King Building
& U.S. Courthouse
Newark, NJ 07102

Hon. Stacey D. Adams
United States Magistrate Judge
Frank Lautenberg Post Office & U.S.
Courthouse
Newark, NJ 07102

Re: United States of America v. Lakeland Bank (No. 2:22-cv-5746-CCC-SDA)

Dear Judges Cecchi and Adams:

As reflected in the notice filed on June 9, 2025 (ECF 12), Covington & Burling LLP was recently retained to represent Defendant Lakeland Bank¹ in the above-captioned case.

We write to seek clarification with respect to the briefing schedule on the unopposed motion for termination filed on May 28, 2025, by the U.S. Department of Justice (ECF 9), and on the motion for leave to appear *amicus curiae* filed on June 1, 2025, by the New Jersey Citizen Action Education Fund, Housing Equality Center of Pennsylvania, and National Fair Housing Alliance (ECF 10).

On June 9, 2025, the Clerk's office issued an automatically generated message on the docket stating that the motion for leave to appear *amicus curiae* is set for July 7, 2025, before Judge Adams and that, "[u]nless otherwise directed by the Court, this motion will be decided on the papers and no appearances are required."

Based on this Order, we understand that only the motion for leave to appear *amicus curiae* (and not the substance of proposed *amici*'s brief, ECF 10-3) is set for consideration on July 7, 2025. Lakeland intends to oppose the motion for leave to appear *amicus curiae*. In accordance with Local Civil Rule 7.1(d), Lakeland will file its opposition by June 23, 2025.

In the event the Court denies the motion for leave to appear *amicus curiae*, Lakeland requests that the Court proceed to grant the Government's unopposed motion to terminate the Consent Order and dismiss this case with prejudice (ECF 9).

¹ Lakeland Bank was acquired by Provident Bank on May 16, 2024.

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In the event the Court grants the motion for leave to appear *amicus curiae*, Lakeland would be prepared to respond to the merits in proposed *amici*'s brief on any schedule that is convenient to the Court.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Jehan A. Patterson
Jehan A. Patterson

cc: all Parties and Counsel of Record (by ECF)